

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 2

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MESSAGE = 00019444

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TO OSCAR/UNIFORM SIERRA

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(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET SPOKE~~ SECTION FIVE OF SIX XXMMENP05-TB06028 2/0/VCK-E/R41-67  
 ISHTAR SUPPLEMENT 2 AVC, KUS/AVIA-A, DOCT-A, INSE-A, OPER-M/E, I. THIS REPORT  
 CONTAINS ISHTAR MATERIAL THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM  
 SIGINT-REFLECTED OPERATIONS AND POSTURE XXCC MIG-21.S KOREAN-PILOTED MIG-21.S  
 OPERATED IN A FIGURE EIGHT PATTERN OVER KEP, EXTENDING AS FAR AS 50 NM TO  
 THE EAST AND 40 NM NORTHWEST OF THE AIRFIELD (SEE APPENDIX 2). AS PREVIOUSLY  
 INDICATED, ALL KOREAN PILOTS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN THE DRV WERE ADMINISTRATIVELY  
 SUBORDINATE TO KEP. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT IMPLY THAT THESE PILOTS REACTED  
 ONLY FROM KEP AIRFIELD. FOLLOWING THE 24 OCTOBER 1967 STRIKES ON PHUC YEN,  
 KOREAN-PILOTED MIG-21.S WERE NOT NOTED ACTIVE AGAIN UNTIL 2 DECEMBER. ON THAT  
 DATE, THREE OF THEM STAGED FROM PHUC YEN AND CONDUCTED ROUTINE TRAINING  
 ACTIVITY THROUGH 11 DECEMBER FROM THAT AIRFIELD. THE 12 KOREAN MIG-21 PILOTS  
 NOTED ACTIVE DURING DECEMBER HAD FLOWN A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 23 AREA  
 FAMILIARIZATION AND PRACTICE GCI FLIGHTS BY 12 DECEMBER. ON 13 DECEMBER, THE  
 MIG-21.S FLEW A DEFENSIVE PATROL FROM PHUC YEN AND RECOVERED AT KEP. FOR THE  
 REMAINDER OF THE MONTH, ALL KOREAN MIG-21 PILOTS FLEW EITHER FROM KEP OR PHUC  
 YEN, WITH ALL ACTIVITY AND THE STAGING BASE DEPENDENT UPON THE PREVAILING  
 ENVIRONMENT AT EITHER OF THOSE AIRFIELDS. THE FIRST COMBAT DUTY PERFORMED BY  
 THESE PILOTS IN DECEMBER TOOK PLACE ON THE 13TH, WHEN A FLIGHT OF TWO MIG-21.S  
 AND FOUR MIG-17.S PERFORMED A JOINT DEFENSIVE PATROL IN THE AREA NORTHEAST OF  
 KEP. THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED DURING THIS PATROL BECAME THE BASIS FOR ALMOST ALL  
 SUBSEQUENT JOINT KOREAN MIG-21/MIG-17 DEFENSIVE PATROLS. THE MIG-21.S RANGED  
 FARTHER FROM THE AIRFIELD THAN DID THE MIG-17.S AND IT APPEARS THAT THEIR ROLE  
 WAS, BASICALLY, TO INTERCEPT AND ATTACK, IN CONTRAST TO THE ROLE OF THE  
 MIG-17.S, WHICH APPEARED TO BE AIRFIELD DEFENSE, WITH INTERCEPT ATTEMPTED ONLY  
 WHEN THE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT ENTERED THEIR SPHERE OF RESPONSIBILITY. AT LEAST 28  
 DEFENSIVE PATROL SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY KOREAN-PILOTED MIG-21.S DURING DECEMBER.  
 ONE OF THESE, ON 16 DECEMBER, RESULTED IN THE INITIAL KOREAN-PILOTED MIG-21  
 SHOOT-DOWN OF A U.S. F4 AIRCRAFT. (D) COORDINATED MIG-21/17 ACTIVITY AS  
 PREVIOUSLY INDICATED IN THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS ON MIG-21.S AND MIG-17.S  
 RESPECTIVELY, PRIOR TO DECEMBER, MIG-21.S WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORWARD  
 AREAS OF THE DRV WHILE MIG-17.S REMAINED IN THE INTERIOR AREAS, CLOSE TO THE  
 AIRFIELDS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF MULTIPLE U.S. INGRESS ROUTES,

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16 Dec 67

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COORDI- NATED MIG-21 AND MIG-17 ATTACKS HAVE OCCURRED, WITH BOTH MIG-21.S AND MIG-17.S OPERATING IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA AT THE SAME TIME. THE FIRST OF SUCH ACTIVITY OBSERVED OCCURRED ON 14 DECEMBER WHEN A COORDINATED ATTACK BY MIG-21 AND MIG-17 AIRCRAFT WAS ATTEMPTED AGAINST USAF STRIKE FORCES USING MULTIPLE INGRESS ROUTES FROM LAOS. THIS ACTIVITY RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF A DRV MIG-17 TO A SAM SITE LOCATED WEST OF HANOI. SIGINT INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT THE MIG LOSS WAS DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE MIG.S IFF EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN THE COMPLEXITY OF THE COORDINATED ATTACK. THIS COORDINATED USE OF BOTH MIG-21 AND MIG-17 AIRCRAFT IN THE FORWARD AREAS HAS EVOLVED, SINCE 14 DECEMBER, INTO A FIRM TACTIC WHICH CAN BE ANTICIPATED DURING MULTIPLE U.S. INGRESSES FROM LAOS. IN THIS EVENT, MIG-21.S ARE TARGETED AGAINST ONE FLIGHT, USUALLY THE ONE INGRESSING FURTHEST FROM THE HANOI/ PHUC YEN COMPLEX, WHILE THE MIG-17.S ARE TARGETED AGAINST A SECOND WHICH APPEARS TO BE THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE COMPLEX. VERTICAL MIG SEPARATION IS EMPLOYED, WITH THE MIG-17.S OPERATING NO HIGHER THAN APPROXIMATELY 9,800 FEET AND MIG-21.S FROM 13,000 FEET UPWARD. III. SAM OPERATIONS A. DRV SAM/AAA TACTICAL STUDY AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACCUMULATED SIGINT DATA REVEAL THAT AN INTENSIVE TACTICAL EVALUATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM IS BEING CONDUCTED AT REGIMENT AND BATTALION LEVEL BY DRV SAM ELEMENTS, WITH DATA AND RESULTS FOR- WARDERD TO "HIGHER ECHELON". ON 3 DECEMBER, EVIDENCE OF SOME RUSSIAN INTEREST WAS INDICATED WHEN A SPEAKER AT THE 236TH REGI- MENT, IN A VIETNAMESE LANGAUGE CONVERSATION CONTAINING SOME PHRASES IN RUSSIAN, INDICATED HE HAD SOME REPORTS TO MAKE OUT AND THAT THE "SECOND ONES ARE IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE". THE TACTICS EVALUATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS SEEM INTERDEPENDENT, ALTHOUGH THE TRAINING PROGRAMS CONTAIN SUBJECTS WHICH DO NOT RELATE TO THE TACTICAL SITUATION, E.G., GOVERNMENT, MORALE, MILITARY TRAINING, ETC. DATA COLLECTED AT THE SAM FIRING BATTALIONS ARE FORWARDED TO REGIMENTAL LEVEL IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL IN FORMATTED AND NARRATIVE REPORTS VIA RADIO COMMUNICATIONS. THESE REPORTS INCLUDE SUCH SUBJECTS AS MISSILE LAUNCHES, AAA EXPENDITURES REPORTS, STRIKE AIRCRAFT FLIGHT ROUTES, STRIKE TACTICS, ECM, AND TRAINING STATISTICS. OTHER INFORMATION IS DELIVERED BY COURIER. XXHH 900

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